As regards transportation sector an expert committee set up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals is currently examining the possibility of inter fuel-substitution by use of methanol/ethanol/CNGjLPG. Further action will be concretised on receipt of Committee's recommendations. Whilst the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is experimenting with use of compressed Natural Gas for tranportation; the DNES is developing technology and demonstrating; (a) the use of Battery Operated Vehicles to be charged during off peak period, for group transport in cities, and (b) Ethanol fumigation in diesel engines of 25 DTC buses to replace diesel by about 15 per cent.

Staff Position of the Central Hindi Directorate

1198. SHRI M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3397 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th March, 1S89 and state:

(a) whether all the 21 sanctioned posts in the Tamil section of the Central Hindi Directorate have been filled up by Tamil qualified persons, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions which studied the staff position of the Department of Correpondence Courses of the Directorate submitted their report in March, 1990;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the report is still pending implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOMENT (SHRI BHA-GEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Out of the posts allocated for Tamil Section of Correspondence Courses Wing proficiency in Tamil is required, under the rules, for appointment to 4 posts only (3 Evaluators and one Technical Assistant). 2 Tamil Evaluatorg have since been appointed. Offer of appointment has been sent to remaining one post also. One post of Technical Assistant is vacant. Action to fill up thi$_s$ vacancy has also been initiated (b) to (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions undertook study of the Correspondence Courses Wing of the Directorate with a view to streamlining procedural aspects of the functioning of the Correspondence Courses Wing of the Directorate.

Ban on Substandard Medicines

1199. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FA WILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Madhya Pradesh Chronicle of 18th September, 1990, to the effect that twenty six substandard medicines have been banned; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure effective implementation of banning the marketing and manufacturing of sub-standard medicines?

THE MNISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF SHA-KEELUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have declared a few drugs as substandard and published the same in the leading newspapers of Madhya Pradesh for the information of the consumers. Whenever, a drug is found to be sub-standard on test, action like withdrawal of drugs from the market/ suspension/concellation of licence or prosecution is taken by state Drug Controllers under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act

Central Government has the powers to prohibit manufacture for sale of a drug/cosmetic in the public interest

whenever a drug cosmetic is found to be harmful or irrational.

Shortage of Staff in Primary Health Centres of Kokrajhar, Assam

1200. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of doctors, pharmacists and nurses in the Primary Health Centres of Kokrajhar District of Assam as reported in the Assam Tribune of 13th September, 1990; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any corrective steps to remedy this state of affairs if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MNISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF SHA-KEELUR REHMAN); (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Amendment to the Mental Health Act

1202, SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a workshop on 'Current Trends in Mental Health" was organised in Jaipur, if so, the details of recommen-datiins made therein;

(b) whether the Indian Phychiatric Society has urged the Central Government to amend the Mental Health Act before its implementation in the country: and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Act in accordance with the recommendations; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN); (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Literacy drive in the Villages

1203. S'IRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-DRAKANT BHANDRAE: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will 'the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased t') State:

(a) the total number of villages in each State and Union Territory which claim 100 per cent Iliteracy; their percentage of the total villages and their population; and

(b) what targets are contemplated to be achieved during the Eighth Plan period in regard to literacy drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE' MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterate adults in the 15—35 age-group by 1990—95 The target for the 8th Five Year Plan is 65 million including the 7th Plan backlog of about 15 million (approx.).

2. A mass campaign for the National Literacy Mission was launched at the national level on 5. 5. 1988. Similar campaigns have also been launched at the StatVUT and District levels in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990. 91. The objective of launching of such mass campaigns is to enlist the involvement and support of all sections of the society for the National Literacy Mission on the one hand and to take up area-specific ari<f time-specific plans for total eradication of illiteracy *on* the other. The States/UTs which have launched such mass campaigns for total literacy for the whole State/selec. ted districts/blocks are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa; Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Several interesting results have already been obtained and more such results are expected in future as a result of such mass campaigns for total literacy.